

Apus streubeli.

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The White-rumped Swift is fairly common in Uganda and British East Africa. I have found them nesting in caves. Two of these specimens were caught on their nests. The clutches consisted of two and three eggs respectively. The eggs are white.

Localities. Kyetema and Jinja, in Uganda; Nairobi, in British East Africa.

[To be continued.]

X.—*A Note on the Emperor Goose (Philacte canagica) and on the Australian Teal (Nettion castaneum).* By F. E. BLAAUW, M.B.O.U.

IN previous papers I have been able to give accounts of the breeding of different species of Geese, and I am glad to say that I am able to add one rare species to the list.

Two or three years ago I got a pair of Emperor Geese (*Philacte canagica*) from North America, and a few months later two pairs more.

The first year following their arrival the birds did not lay, but in the spring of 1914 one pair laid six eggs under a bush. The eggs were put under a common hen, and only one chick hatched, which came to maturity and is still alive and well.

In the spring of 1915 the same pair of birds laid again—a clutch of five eggs this time, which I left to the birds to take care of. The nest was made at a good distance from the water, and was a rather well-constructed nest for a Goose to make.

The eggs, when fresh, were yellowish white and of an elongated shape. During incubation the male bird was in constant attendance, and never left the female.

Incubation lasted twenty-four days, being three days

longer than the time of incubation of *Chen rossi*. All the five eggs hatched, but one of the chicks had a misformed leg and did not live long.

The chick in down is of a beautiful pearl-grey, darkest on the head and upperside and lighter below. The legs and bill are black.

The chicks grew very fast, and in a few weeks were completely feathered. In the first feather-dress the bird resembles the adults, but the grey is not so bluish. The black markings on the feathers are only indicated, and the coverts on the upperside are not so square, but more pointed. The black throat is wanting, and so is the white head and neck—these parts being grey like the rest of the body. The tail is white.

The bill is dusky bluish, flesh-colour at the base and black at the tip. The legs are yellowish black. As soon as the birds are full-grown they begin to moult, shedding all the feathers except the large flight-feathers. The tail-feathers are also moulted.

At the end of October the young birds are quite grown, and similar to the old birds. By this time the upper mandible has got the beautiful blue and flesh colours of the old birds, whilst the lower mandible has become black. The legs are now orange. When the bird is moulting, the first white feathers of the head to appear are near the base of the bill.

Mr. Mathews, in his splendid book on the 'Birds of Australia,' vol. iv. pp. 98 & 113, is of opinion that the two sexes of *Nettion castaneum* are *alike* in plumage, both sexes having the male plumage. I have bred these birds for several years, and I am sorry that I cannot confirm this statement.

The male is of a chestnut colour, with a beautiful bronze and green head and a white spot on each side of the tail.

The female answers the description given by Count Salvadori in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' vol. xxvii. p. 31. *Young* birds in first plumage resemble

the female, but the black marks in the feathers of the breast are absent.

The males begin to get the plumage of the adult when about five or six months old, in such a way that, for instance, birds bred in May are indistinguishable from the old birds in January. In the young males the first change is that the throat becomes black.

The females also acquire the spots on the underside at the same period.

Although the males have not exactly an eclipse plumage, they yet go back in colour a good deal after the breeding-season, and, for a while, the bright colours are clouded over—even the white spots are less bright.

I have a flock of fifteen birds, and have bred them during three or four years, with the result as described above.

XI.—*Bird-parasites and Bird-phylogeny**.

By LAUNCELOT HARRISON, B.Sc.

(Text-figure 5.)

I HAVE always had the intention of, sooner or later, bringing under the notice of ornithologists the trend of my work upon bird-parasites, and I am very sensible of the privilege which is mine in being asked to address the Club this evening. All field-ornithologists are very well aware of the existence of the Mallophaga, or Biting Lice, of which by far the greater number are distributed upon birds, although they are also found upon nearly all families of mammals. But few, I think, realise how innumerable are the species of these bird-parasites, and what a field they open up for the study of a fascinating side-light on ornithology. It is to this side-light, this oblique illumination of ornithology, that I wish to direct your attention.

* An address, opening a discussion on this subject, delivered to the British Ornithologists' Club on January 12, 1916.